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ABSTRACT

This summary of Hispanic statistics reviews information in the following areas: (1) subgroups and residential distribution among Hispanic Americans; (2) income, employment, and education; (3) lack of institutional access in terms of the church, schools, government, corporations, the media, and private philanthropy; and (4) lack of data on Hispanics and the problems that this causes. (CMG)

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HISPANIC STATISTICS SUMMARY

A COMPENDIUM OF DATA ON HISPANIC AMERICANS

MAR 27 1984

Prepared by

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HISPANIC STATISTICS SUMMARY

A. Who are the Hispanics?

- Officially, according to the 1980 Census, 14,605,883 Hispanics live in the mainland United States, plus about 3.5 million in Puerto Rico.[1]

- The actual number is probably about 20 million permanent residents, plus an undetermined number of undocumented persons, some of whom plan to stay in the U.S., but many of whom come here for a limited period and intend to return home. (It has been estimated by a Mexican expert, Dr. Jorge Bustamante, that only 9% of Mexican undocumented workers remain in the United States permanently.[2])

- Hispanics include Mexican Americans or Chicanos (60% of Hispanic Americans), Puerto Ricans (14%), Cuban Americans (6% prior to the recent influx), other Central and South Americans (8%), and others of Spanish origin (12%).[3] (This and following statistics exclude Puerto Ricans living on the island of Puerto Rico, unless otherwise noted.)

- Mexican Americans, the largest Hispanic subgroup, are concentrated in the Southwest, in those states which were part of Mexico until the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 and the Gadsden Purchase in 1853 (These agreements transferred half the prior land area of Mexico to U.S. control). Mexican Americans have been living in what is now the United States since before the English settled North America; one-third of today's Chicanos are descended from Mexicans living in the Southwest when it was taken from Mexico.

- Today, Hispanics are concentrated in the Southwest, Florida, and New York, but found in every state — about 1.3 million live in the Midwest.[4] Hispanics constitute more than 10% of the total population of five states: New Mexico (36.6%), Texas (21.0%), California (19.2%), Arizona (16.2%) and Colorado (11.7%).[5]

- Counting U.S. Hispanics only, the U.S. is now the fifth largest Spanish speaking country in the world — after Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Colombia. In fact, if Puerto Rico is included, the U.S. would be placed ahead of Colombia.[6] Moreover, Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world, after Mandarin Chinese, English, and Russian.[7]

- Los Angeles has the second largest concentration of residents of Mexican descent in the Western Hemisphere (after Mexico City).[8]

- Hispanics have been a major immigrant population in the U.S. only since 1951. Considering all immigrants since 1921, Hispanics constitute just 9.8%, including those from Caribbean countries in the Hispanic total. Since 1951, Hispanics have constituted 35.8% of all legal immigrants to the U.S.[9]

- Hispanics are a young population -- the median age for Hispanics is 22.1 years, as compared to 24.9 years for Blacks and 31.3 years for Whites.[10]

- Hispanics have larger families, on the average, than non-Hispanics--3.7 members as compared with 2.8 for non-Hispanics.[11]

- Officially, Hispanics constitute 6.4% of the mainland U.S. population,[12] but considering the census undercount, the actual percentage is probably 9-10%.

- From 1970 to 1980, the Hispanic population increased by 61%, as compared with 17% for Blacks.[13] Part of the increase reflects improved counting procedures (the 1980 Census is the first to ask all respondents a question on Hispanic origin). Some demographers believe that Hispanics will become the nation's largest minority within this centry or even within this decade,[14] while others believe this will not occur until well into the twenty-first century.[15]

B. Poverty

Hispanics are among the poorest Americans. Blacks are worse off based on some indicators; Hispanics, based on others. There are some significant differences across Hispanic subgroups, with Puerto Ricans and then Mexican Americans usually having the poorest status, and Cuban Americans, the best.

1. Income

- Hispanic median family income in 1981 was $16,402, as compared with $23,517 for non-Hispanic white families — thus only 70% as high. Family median income was lowest for Puerto Ricans and highest for Cuban Americans.[16]

- Using federal poverty guidelines, about one in ten White families is poor. About one in three Black families is poor. About one in four Hispanic families is poor. There were more low-income people and families in 1981 — of all races — than in 1979, when one in 11 White families, one in four Black families, and one in five Hispanic families were below the poverty level.[17]

- Only about one-fourth (27.4%) of Hispanic families have incomes above $25,000, as compared with nearly one-half (46.5%) of White families.[18]

- Conditions are far worse in certain states and regions. For example, in New York, the median family income for Hispanics is just 50% of that for Whites; in New Jersey, 62%; in Texas, 63%; and in Colorado, 64%.[19]

- Yet American Hispanics have the highest median income of any Hispanic country in the world — a major factor affecting immigration to the United States from Latin America.

2. Employment

- Hispanic unemployment tends to be about 60% higher than White unemployment — and typically, the "White" category also includes Hispanics, which lessens the difference between the two groups. (The unemployment rate for Blacks is often 150% higher than the White unemployment rate.)

- In the five years 1975-79, Hispanic unemployment averaged 10.3% Black unemployment 13.4%, and White unemployment (with most Hispanics counted as White) 7.0%.[20] In August 1982, Hispanic unemployment was 14.6%, 70% higher than the White rate of 8.6%.[21]

- The official unemployment rate for Hispanic youth 16-19 was 22.9% in October 1981; the actual rate is much higher because many Hispanic youth are not counted as in the labor force.[22]

- Economist Fred Romero of the U.S. Department of Labor has estimated that 40% of employed Mexican Americans are underemployed.[23]

- Only 32% of Hispanics, as compared with 34% of Blacks and 42% of Whites, hold white-collar jobs; 46% of Hispanics, as compared with 41% of Blacks and 40% of Whites, hold blue-collar jobs.[24]

- There has been some recent improvement in Hispanic employment status. The number of Hispanics in professional and managerial positions doubled between 1973 and 1980. However, Hispanics are still only about half as likely as Whites to be in professional jobs.[25]

3. Education

- A major factor contributing to Hispanic poverty is lack of equal access to education, and resulting low educational attainment.

- Hispanics are the least educated minority in the United States; the median number of school years completed by Hispanics 25 and over is 10.3 years, as compared with 11.9 years for Blacks and 12.5 years for Whites. Only about 42% of Hispanics 25 and older have completed high school.[26]

- More than one-sixth (17.6%) of Hispanics 25 and older completed no more than four years of school.[27] Only 7.9% are college graduates.[28]

- Educational levels are improving but remain lower than for other racial and ethnic groups. Nearly two in five (38.2%) of Hispanic youth 18-19 years old are high school dropouts; 14.1% of 16-17 year olds are out of school and have not graduated. On the other hand, only 13.6% of White youth 18-19 and 9.1% of White youth 16-17 are dropouts.[29]

- To put it another way (figures are not new, but seem to have changed relatively little), for every 100 children entering school:

  .. 14 Whites fail to obtain high school diplomas;
  .. 33 Blacks fail to obtain high school diplomas; and
  .. 40 Hispanics fail to obtain high school diplomas.[30]

- About one in five migrant farmworkers over 30 has never been in a classroom, and the average educational attainment for Hispanic farmworkers 25 and over is 5.4 years. In 1976, only nine percent of Hispanic farmworkers (as compared with 19 percent of other farmworkers) who were 25 or older had completed high school.[31]

- For those in school, having a non-English language home background is related to being enrolled below grade level -- 10% of Hispanics from non-English language backgrounds are at least two years below grade level at ages 8-13, and 25% are enrolled below grade level by ages 14-20.[32] One-third of Hispanics usually speak Spanish in the home. Hispanics from non-English language backgrounds are three times as likely as those from monc-English language backgrounds to be high school dropouts (27% versus 9%).[33] Thus the language barrier remains a major obstacle to educational attainment.

- While Hispanics constitute at least 6.4% of the U.S. population, they earn 2.2% or less of the bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and first professional degrees awarded each year -- and one-fourth of Hispanics earning doctorates are foreign nationals in the U.S. on short-term visas.[34] Post-secondary enrollment rates are <u>decreasing</u>. While 35.4% of Hispanics in 1975 who earned high school diplomas went on to college, the rate was only 29.9% in 1980.[35]

- Those Hispanics who do enroll in post-secondary education are heavily concentrated in two-year colleges — Hispanics constitute 5.9% of two-year college students, and only 2.8% of four-year college students; they are 2.0% of graduate students, and 2.1% of students in first professional degree programs (e.g., law school, medical school).[36] This reflects severe underrepresentation, since -- because they are a relatively young population — Hispanics constitute at least 8% of the college-age population in this country.

- Hispanics are also underrepresented in vocational schools (non-collegiate postsecondary programs), in which they constitute 5.3% of total enrollment.[37]

- Hispanics have a far higher college attrition rate than Whites; 57% of Hispanic males and 54% of females fail to graduate, as compared with 34% of both White males and White females.[38]

- Over half of Hispanic college students have parents who did not graduate from high school, as compared with just 15% of White college students.[39]

C. Powerlessness - Lack of Institutional Access

One factor serving to prolong Hispanic poverty is a relative powerlessness — lack of equal access to the nation's resources, due to lack of influence on or power within the institutions which control their lives. For example:

1. Church

- More than one-fourth (27%) of U.S. Catholics are Hispanics.[40]
- As of 1976, just 1% of priests, and 11% of nuns, were Hispanic.[41]
- In 1976, only 1.8% of bishops (and just 0.8% of bishops heading dioceses) were Hispanic. By 1980, this proportion had increased to 4.4% of active bishops. Numerically, there are currently 12 Hispanic bishops, half of them heading dioceses, the other half auxiliary bishops.[42]

2. Schools

- Hispanics are underrepresented on public boards of education and as public school employees:
  - In California, where 30% of the school population and about 19% of the total population are Hispanic, only about 1.7% of school board members are Hispanic.[43] Only 0.9% of all elementary and secondary school administrators, 2.0% of principals and assistant principals, 5.3% of secondary school teachers, and 8.1% of total public school employees are Hispanic in California, which has the largest Hispanic school population of any state.[44]
  - In Texas, where 25% of the public school students are Hispanic, less than 10% of school Board members are Hispanic, as are 0.9% of administrators, 1.7% of principals and assistant principals, 8.3% of secondary school teachers, and 15.8% of total public school employees.[45]
  - Nationally, 6% of public elementary and secondary students are Hispanic, but only 0.9% of administrators, 1.7% of principals and assistant principals, 1.8% of secondary school teachers, and 2.9% of total public school employees. Hispanics are overrepresented only as teacher aides; 19.4% of teacher aides nationally are Hispanic.[46]

- Hispanics are underrepresented as faculty and staff of colleges and universities, and control few institutions of higher education:

  .. More than 100 institutions of higher education are controlled by Blacks, but there are only two private four-year institutions controlled by Hispanics. Both schools are struggling.

  .. In Autumn 1982, just 22 Hispanics headed colleges and universities, and just six headed four-year schools; the other 16 headed two-year institutions.[47]

  .. Fifteen institutions of higher education have at least a 50% Hispanic enrollment (excluding schools in Puerto Rico). Of these, nine are in Texas, two in California, two in New York, one in New Mexico, one in Oregon. Nine are two-year institutions, and 11 are public institutions.[48]

  .. Hispanics constitute about 3.5% of all students in post-secondary full-time educational programs nationally, but Hispanics are just 2.7% of all employees in such institutions. Moreover, while Hispanics constitute 5.8% of service/maintenance staff at institutions of higher education, they make up only 1.4% of executive, administrative, and managerial personnel, and just 1.5% of faculty.[49]

3. Government

- Hispanics are significantly underrepresented as elected officials at all levels, although the 1982 elections significantly increased the number of Hispanic officials elected to statewide and national office.

- The number of Hispanics in the House of Representatives is increasing, but there are no Hispanic Senators.

  .. Until the 1982 elections, there were just six Hispanic voting members of Congress, five Chicano and one Puerto Rican. (There is also a nonvoting member from Puerto Rico.) One of these was elected to a vacated seat in the spring of 1982. Thus while Hispanics constitute at least 6.4% of the U.S. population, they made up only 1.4% of House members, and (since there were no Hispanic Senators) only 1.1% of all members of Congress. There are no Hispanic Congressmembers from Florida or Illinois, two states with very large Hispanic populations concentrated in particular areas (Miami/Dade County and Chicago).

  .. In November 1982, all incumbent Hispanic Congressmembers were re-elected, and three additional Hispanics were elected, from new districts added in Sun Belt states.

- .. As of January 1983, Hispanic Representatives will include one from New York, three from Texas, two from New Mexico, and three from California.

- In spite of the improvement, Hispanics even in the the Southwest remain underrepresented in the Congress, except in New Mexico. The following figures compare percent of Hispanics in the U.S. House of Representatives with percent in the state population:

  - .. California - Hispanics make up 19.2% of the population but only 7.0% of the Representatives (three of 43);

  - .. Texas - Hispanics constitute 21.0% of the population but only 11.1% of the Representatives (three of 27);

  - .. New Mexico - Hispanics constitute 36.6% of the population and 66.7% of the Representatives (two of three); and

  - .. Arizona - Hispanics make up 16.2% of the population but there are no Hispanic Representatives (zero of five); and

  - .. Colorado - Hispanics make up 11.7% of the population but there are no Hispanic Representatives (zero of six).

- Hispanics have made some gains in statewide office, but only in one state. Following the 1980 elections, there was only one Hispanic statewide official in the Southwest, the Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico. In 1982, Hispanics were elected to five of the eight statewide offices in New Mexico, including the governorship.

- Before the 1982 elections, Hispanics made up 19.6% of the population of the five Southwestern states listed earlier, and 14.6% of state Senators.[50] They were underrepresented in the state houses in all five states. In 1982, the first Hispanic woman ever to serve in the California state assembly was elected from Los Angeles.

- A small number of Hispanics have been elected to state legislatures outside the Southwest. In 1982, two Hispanics were elected to the legislature in Minnesota. Tallies for the country as a whole are still being developed.

- Hispanics tend to be underrepresented as local elected officials even where they are a large proportion of the population. The Los Angeles area has more than one million Chicano residents, but as of 1980 had not had a Chicano city councilmember for 15 years; nor were there any Hispanics on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

- Hispanics are also underrepresented in federal employment:

  .. There has never been an Hispanic cabinet member.

  .. In 1969, 2.8% of the federal workforce was Hispanic; by 1975, the total was 3.2%, and by 1979, it had increased by 3.9%.51 At this rate of increase, parity will not be achieved in the foreseeable future, given the rapid growth of the Hispanic population, and the expected reductions in the size of the federal workforce.

  .. Only 1% of "supergrade" government employees were Hispanic as of June 30, 1981; this represents an increase from 0.6% in 1975.52

  .. Hispanic federal employees continue to be concentrated at the lower grade levels. For example, in 1979, Hispanics constituted 7.3% of the GS-2 employees, 4.1% of the GS-7 employees, and only 1.7% of the GS-15 employees.53

- The involvement of Hispanics in special, often highly influential, advisory groups is also minimal. For federal advisory committees as of 1975:

  .. Hispanics made up only 2% of members of advisory groups:54

  .. In the Executive Office of the President, with ten committees, there was one Hispanic.55

  .. Six departments had fewer than 1% Hispanics on their advisory committees, and these included Labor and Justice.56 During the past few years, Hispanics have, at best, sometimes managed to establish ad hoc advisory groups to department heads, but these have been informal and could be disbanded at the Secretary's discretion.

  .. The Federal Communications Commission had 1,321 advisory positions, and no Hispanics.57 The first Hispanic Federal Communications Commissioner was appointed in 1981.

  .. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was made up of 29% Blacks and 12% Hispanics.58

- Hispanics continue to be underrepresented in the judiciary and in law enforcement, at every level.

  .. In 1970, in the five Southwestern states, where Hispanics were then 14% of the population, they represented 3.4% of federal judges, 3.2% of state court judges, and 3% of state district attorneys, public prosecutors, and assistant prosecutors.59

  .. This situation is changing very slowly, and law enforcement statistics are similarly poor. In Dallas, 13% of the population is Hispanic, but only 3% o the law enforcement personnel are Hispanic.

.. Only 4.5% of the total Department of Justice workforce was Hispanic in 1975, and less than 5% of correctional administrators nationwide were Hispanics.60

.. Criminal justice system underrepresentation is a particular problem due to traditional difficulties related to unequal treatment of Hispanics within the criminal justice system.

4. Corporations

- Hispanics are minimally involved on corporate boards.

- Only one Hispanic American heads any of the top 500 industrial corporations, or top 300 banks, insurance companies, transportation companies, etc.

- Hispanics are severely underrepresented as business owners. As of 1977, the last year for which data are available:61

  .. Hispanics own only 1.9% of all U.S. firms while constituting more than three times that proportion of the population (6.4%).

  .. The large majority (81%) of Hispanic-owned firms are one-person or family operations with no paid employees.

  .. The other 19% have an average of only five employees, yet these 19% account for 68% of total gross receipts for all Hispanic businesses.

  .. Hispanic businesses are more likely than White-owned businesses to be sole proprietorships and less likely to be corporations or even partnerships: 79% of all busiresses and 93% of Hispanic-owned businesses are sole proprietorships, 8% of all businesses and about 5% of Hispanic businesses are partnerships, and 13% of all businesses but just 2% of Hispanic businesses are corporations.

  .. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses would have to more than triple to equal their proportion in the population. Only Cubans (who make up 6% of the Hispanic population but own 16.3% of all Hispanic businesses) are ALMOST as likely to be business owners as would be expected from their proportion in the population. Mexican Americans constitute about 60% of the Hispanic population and own 62.4% of Hispanic businesses; Puerto Ricans are about 14% of the Hispanic population but own only 7.2% of the Hispanic businesses. Other Hispanics are about 18% of the Hispanic population and own 14.1% of Hispanic businesses.

- .. Almost one-quarter of Hispanic-owned businesses are located in just ten metropolitan areas in five states — California, Texas, Florida, New York, and New Jersey.

- .. More than one-fifth of Hispanic-owned businesses are located in just ten counties in four states -- Texas, California, Florida, and Illinois.

- .. About 57% of the Hispanic population lives in California, Texas, and Florida, but only about 36% of Hispanic-owned businesses are located in these states. Thus Hispanics are LESS likely to own businesses in these states with very large Hispanic populations.

. Hispanics are underrepresented in managerial and administrative jobs. In 1979, just 6% of Hispanics were working as managers and administrators, as compared to 11% of non-Hispanics.62 This percentage has shown minimal change in the past few years.

5. Media

. There is minimal Hispanic ownership of the broadcast media, and very little visibility or control by Hispanics.

- .. Five of 234 commerical UHF TV stations are owned by Hispanic Americans — just 2%. None of the 519 commercial VHF stations are owned by Americans of Hispanic descent; there are 14 commercial TV stations affiliated with the Mexican-owned Spanish International Network (SIN).63

- .. There is just one Hispanic-owned UHF educational TV station, out of a total of 106 stations -- or 0.9% Hispanic ownership; none of the 162 educational VHF TV stations are Hispanic owned.64

- .. Of some 4,200 cable TV stations, at least four are Hispanic-owned, and the number is increasing slowly.65

- .. Of 3,262 commercial FM radio stations, only four or 0.1% are Hispanic owned.66

- .. Of 4,589 commercial AM radio stations, 27 or 0.5% are Hispanic owned — this represents 14 owners.67

- .. None of the 1,092 educational FM radio stations are Hispanic owned.68

- .. The first non-commercial TV station licensed to a minority group (the UHF educational TV station mentioned above) was licensed to a Mexican American group in Harlingen, Texas, in late 1978; it is now on the air, but in a precarious financial condition.

.. A survey of 40 major TV and radio stations found only 2.5% of station managers and officials were Hispanic; just 9.6% were Black; 86.2% were White.69

.. As of January 1981, the following statistics were reported for public broadcasting: of 471 public TV stations, 101 or 21% reported no Hispanic staff at all; two stations or 0.4% had Hispanics on their governing boards.70

.. The national public broadcasting groups had even worse employment statistics. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting had three Hispanic employees (one professional, two technical, no support staff) out of 137 employees -- or 2.2% Hispanics. The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) reported three Hispanic employees (one professional, two support staff) out of 261 employees -- or 1.1%. National Public Radio reported four Hispanic employees (one professional, one managerial, and two technical) out of 324 employees — or 1.2% Hispanics. Hispanics. (All figures are for January 1981.)71

.. There is some hope for inreased Hispanic ownership and employment in the cable and low power TV systems, but this cannot yet be predicted accurately.72

6. Private Philanthropy

- Out of some 150,000 foundation trustees, only approximately 18 are Hispanics, according to a study by the Council on Foundations.73

- According to recent study by the Latino Institute, only 1% of foundation dollars given in 1977 and 1978 could be identified as directly benefiting Hispanics in the United States -- an increase of 0.2% from five years earlier. Moreover, since the study considered only the larger foundations, which appear most likely to provice grants benefiting Hispanics, this figure is probably over-stated. Moreover, only 51% of the funds went to entities controlled by Hispanics.74

D. Lack of Data

A factor wich further complicates Hispanic problems is the lack of adequate data.

- The 1980 Census was the first decennial census to ask all respondents about Hispanic heritage.

- Many federal statistical systems do not separately categorize Hispanics (e.g., many crime statistics do not) or at best include only the general Hispanic category, not subgroups.

- Public Law 94-311, the Roybal Amendment, requires federal agencies to begin to collect, tabulate, and disseminate data on Hispanics, but the amendment has no enforcement provisions.

- At the local level, Hispanic statistics are particularly difficult to obtain, whether the need is for dropout rates or crime and victimization reports.

- The 1980 Census data will be more difficult to obtain and use than data from previous censuses, because block and tract data will be available only on data tapes and microfiche, not in printed form.

- The lack of data makes it very difficult for Hispanic groups to clearly establish the seriousness of poverty, powerlessness, and lack of opportunity.

- Changes are also difficult to measure, in the absence of reliable baseline statistics.

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